



*Massachusetts*  
*Department of Correction*

# Quarterly Report on the Status of Prison Overcrowding, Fourth Quarter of 1996

Submitted in Compliance with Chapter 799  
Section 21 of the Acts of 1985

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# 1996 Fourth Quarter Report

**S**ection Twenty-one of Chapter 799 of the Acts of 1985 directs the Commissioner of Correction to report quarterly on the status of overcrowding in the state and county facilities.

This statute calls for the following information:

*Such report shall include, by facility, the average daily census for the period of the report and the actual census on the second and last days of the report period. Said report shall also contain such information for the previous twelve months and a comparison to the rated capacity of such facility.*

This report presents the required statistics for the fourth quarter of 1996.

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*This report was prepared by Ramon V. Raagas of Research & Planning and is based on daily count sheets prepared by the Classification Division.*

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## 1996 Fourth Quarter Report

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## Technical Notes

- ▶ The official capacity or custody level designation for each facility can change for a number of reasons, e.g. expansion of facility beds, decrease of facility beds due to fire, or changes in contracts with vendors. In all tables the capacity and custody level reflects the status at the end of the reporting period. The design capacity is reported for correctional facilities in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- ▶ On November, 15, 1996, one hundred new modular beds were added to MCI Concord, increasing its design capacity to 614. Ninety-six modular beds were also added to MCI Norfolk, increasing its total to 1,084 beds. Pondville Correctional Center was reclassified from Custody Level 3/2 to Custody Level 3.
- ▶ Two hundred forty three new modular unit were added to Middlesex (Billerica) House of Correction during November 15, 1996, increasing its total to 1,035 beds.
- ▶ Due to changes in the Massachusetts General Law, DOC consolidated one unit at the Treatment Center and back filled with general population inmates. These design capacity beds were placed on-line November 8, 1996 and first appeared on the daily count sheet of November 12, 1996.
- ▶ Due to the Department's policy changes, the security level of MCI-Shirley (Min) was changed from Security Level 2/3 to Security Level 3 during the first quarter of 1996 .
- ▶ On January 31, 1995, the design capacity for the Departmental Segregation Units (DSU) at MCI-Cedar Junction and MCI-Norfolk were taken off the count sheets. The segregation units are considered support beds and are not shown on the daily count sheet as design capacity. This resulted in the elimination of 91 beds (60 at Cedar Junction and 31 at Norfolk) from the previous quarterly reports.
- ▶ In previous quarterly reports, the population figures for PPREP were included with the Park Drive population. The PPREP population is reported independently starting with the first quarter of 1995.
- ▶ The population figures for all facilities include both male and female inmates except as shown at Lancaster
- ▶ State inmates housed in the Hampshire county contract program are included in the county population tables as are all other state inmates housed in county facilities.
- ▶ Longwood Treatment Center is a specialized DOC facility for individuals incarcerated for O.U.I. Because the inmates are primarily county sentenced inmates, the inmate count and bed capacity are also included in Tables 3 and 4.
- ▶ The Massachusetts Boot Camp opened on August 17, 1992, and is located at the Bridgewater Correctional complex in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Prior to 1993, the Boot Camp was listed as a DOC minimum security facility. In August, 1995, 128 beds were designated to security level 4 (state inmates) and 128 beds for county inmates. In October, 1995, these beds were added to security level 4 design capacity, and 128 beds were added to House of Correction tables.
- ▶ Norfolk County includes Braintree, Dedham, and Norfolk Contract. Middlesex County includes both Billerica and Cambridge. Berkshire County includes the pre-release facility. Essex County includes Middleton, and Lawrence Correctional Alternative Center. Bristol County includes Dartmouth, Eastern Mass. Alternative Center and Pre-Release.
- ▶ Nashua Street inmates housed at other facilities are reported in the counts for the facilities in which they are in custody.
- ▶ During June, 1993, Plymouth House of Correction added 833 beds increasing its total to 1,140 beds.

► On April 18, 1995, new security level changes were established according to 103 DOC 101 Correctional Institutions/Custody Levels policy which states:

**Custody Levels:**

- **Level One.** The least restrictive in the department and is reserved only for those inmates who are at the end of their sentence and have been identified as posing little to no threat to the community. Supervision is minimal and indirect.

- **Level Two.** A custody level in which both design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of restoring to the inmate maximum responsibility and control of their own behavior and actions prior to their release. Direct supervision of these inmates is not required, but intermittent observation may be appropriate under certain conditions. Inmates within this level may be permitted to access the community unescorted to participate in programming to include, but not limited to, work release, educational release, etc.

- **Level Three.** A custody level in which both the design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of returning to the inmate a greater sense of personal responsibility and autonomy while still providing for supervision and monitoring of behavior and activity. Inmates within this security level are not considered a serious risk to the safety of staff, inmates or to the public. Program participation is mandated and geared toward their potential reintegration into the community. Access to the community is limited and under constant direct staff supervision.

- **Level Four.** A custody level in which both the design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of restoring to the inmate some degree of responsibility and control of their own behavior and actions, while still insuring the safety of staff and inmates. Design/construction is generally characterized by high security parameters and limited use of internal physical barriers. Inmates at this level have demonstrated the ability to abide by rules and regulations and require intermittent supervision. However, behavior in the community, i.e., criminal sentence and/or the presence of serious outstanding legal matters indicate the need for some control and for segregation from the community. Job and program opportunities exist for all inmates within the perimeter of the facility.

- **Level Five.** A custody level in which design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the need to provide maximum external and internal control and supervision of inmates. Inmates accorded to this status may present an escape risk or pose a threat to other inmates, staff, or the orderly running of the institution, however, at a lesser degree than those at level 6. Supervision remains constant and direct. Through an inmates willingness to comply with institutional rules and regulations, increased job and program opportunities exist.

- **Level Six.** A custody level in which both design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the need to provide maximum external and internal control and supervision of inmates primarily through the use of high security parameters and extensive use of internal physical barriers and check points. Inmates accorded this status present serious escape risks or pose serious threats to themselves, to other inmates, to staff, or the orderly running of the institution. Supervision of inmates is direct and constant. Inmates are confined to their cells at all times, except when they are removed for authorized activities. Inmates within their status, when removed from their cell, are typically under escort and in restraints.

**Abbreviations**

AC	- Addiction Center	OCCC	- Old Colony Correctional Center
ADP	- Average Daily Population	OUI	- Operating Under the Influence
ATU	- Awaiting Trial Unit	PPREP	- Pre-Parole Residential Environmental Phase Program
CRS	- Contract Residential Services. Includes Charlotte House, and Houston House	PRC	- Pre-Release Center
DDU	- Departmental Disciplinary Unit	SECC	- Southeastern Correctional Ctr.
DOC	- Department of Correction	SDPTC	- Sexually Dangerous Person Treatment Center
DSU	- Departmental Segregation Unit	SMCC	- South Middlesex Correctional Center (formerly SMPRC)
HOC	- House of Correction	SH	- State Hospital
NECC	- Northeastern Correctional Center	TC	- Treatment Center (Longwood)
NCCI	- North Central Correctional Institution at Gardner		

Table 1 provides the DOC figures for the fourth quarter of 1996. As this table indicates, the DOC population (excluding Bridgewater SH, SDPTC, AC, Longwood TC, Mass. Boot Camp) increased by 126 inmates, or 1 percent, during the first quarter. At the end of the quarter, the DOC operated with 9,944 inmates in the system, and the average daily population was 9,916 with a design capacity of 6,806. Thus, the DOC operated at 146 percent of design capacity.

**Population in Department of Correction Facilities,  
October 1, 1996 to December 30, 1996**

Custody Level/ Facility	Avg. Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
<b>Custody Level 6</b>					
Cedar Junction	807	791	819	633	127%
Framingham - ATU	121	135	96	64	189%
<b>Custody Level 5</b>					
CCCC	707	725	703	488	145%
<b>Custody Level 4</b>					
Concord	1,171	1,162	1,179	*614	191%
Framingham	491	504	495	388	127%
Norfolk	1,451	1,338	1,516	*1084	134%
Bay State	295	296	295	266	111%
NCCI	1,020	1,018	1,015	568	180%
SECC	834	840	849	456	183%
Shirley-Medium	1,101	1,104	1,099	720	153%
Mass. Boot Camp	119	126	116	128	93%
*Treatment Center	49	0	49	45	109%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>8,166</b>	<b>8,039</b>	<b>8,231</b>	<b>5,454</b>	<b>150%</b>
<b>Custody Level 3</b>					
Plymouth	189	182	192	151	125%
NECC	261	263	251	150	174%
SECC-Minimum	104	105	102	100	104%
*Shirley-Lower	354	362	345	403	88%
*Pondville	200	201	188	100	200%
<b>Custody Level 3/2</b>					
Lancaster-Male	200	203	201	94	213%
Lancaster-Female	72	73	65	59	122%
So. Middlesex CC	181	198	167	125	145%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>132%</b>
<b>Custody Level 2</b>					
Boston State	90	92	90	55	164%
Park Drive	41	40	50	50	82%
Hodder House	28	33	30	35	80%
<b>Custody Level 1</b>					
Charlotte	10	9	8	15	67%
Houston House	9	9	11	15	60%
PREPP	11	9	13	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>111%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,916</b>	<b>9,818</b>	<b>9,944</b>	<b>6,806</b>	<b>146%</b>
Bridgewater SH	353	344	357	227	156%
Bridgewater TC	224	250	199	216	104%
Bridgewater AC	117	150	124	214	55%
Longwood TC	145	153	140	125	116%
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>107%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10,755</b>	<b>10,715</b>	<b>10,764</b>	<b>7,588</b>	<b>142%</b>
Houses of Correction	775	773	777	n.a.	n.a.
Federal Prisons	29	30	30	n.a.	n.a.
Inter-State Contract	320	330	316	n.a.	n.a.

( \* = See Technical Notes )

Table 2 provides the DOC figures for the previous twelve months - i.e., for the period October 1, 1995 to September 30, 1996. These figures indicate that the DOC population decreased by 42, less than 1 percent, over this twelve month period (excluding Bridgewater SH, SDPTC, AC, Longwood TC, Mass. Boot Camp), from 9,857 in October, 1995 to 9,815 in September, 1996.

**Population in Department of Correction Facilities,  
October 1, 1995 to September 30, 1996**

Custody Level/ Facility	Average Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
<b>Custody Level 6</b>					
Cedar Junction	808	840	791	633	128%
Framingham - ATU	101	95	145	64	158%
<b>Custody Level 5</b>					
OCCC	714	748	721	488	146%
<b>Custody Level 4</b>					
Concord	1,073	1,297	1,159	514	209%
Framingham	483	454	494	388	124%
Norfolk	1,326	1,334	1,336	988	134%
Bay State	293	294	295	266	110%
NCCI	1,010	1,007	1,018	568	178%
SECC	861	881	844	456	189%
Shirley-Medium	1,094	1,068	1,109	720	152%
Mass. Boot Camp	104	65	125	128	81%
Sub-Total	7,867	8,083	8,037	5,213	151%
<b>Custody Level 3</b>					
Plymouth	179	189	181	151	119%
NECC	276	240	267	150	184%
SECC-Minimum	140	102	105	100	140%
<b>Custody Level 3/2</b>					
Lancaster-Male	198	193	203	94	211%
Lancaster-Female	65	67	74	59	110%
Pondville	192	194	201	100	192%
Shirley-Lower	347	346	357	403	86%
SMCC	179	197	197	125	143%
Sub-Total	1,576	1,528	1,585	1,182	133%
<b>Custody Level 2</b>					
Boston State	96	131	93	55	175%
Park Drive	46	48	41	50	92%
Hodder House	26	22	33	35	74%
<b>Custody Level 1</b>					
Charlotte	8	14	9	15	53%
Houston House	9	10	9	15	60%
PREPP	17	21	8	n.a.	n.a.
Sub-Total	202	246	193	170	119%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,645</b>	<b>9,857</b>	<b>9,815</b>	<b>6,565</b>	<b>147%</b>
Bridgewater SH	331	340	345	337	98%
Bridgewater TC	227	207	248	216	105%
Bridgewater AC	135	199	139	214	63%
Longwood TC	141	145	153	125	113%
Sub-Total	834	891	885	892	93%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10,479</b>	<b>10,748</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>7,457</b>	<b>141%</b>
Houses of Correction	764	901	774	n.a.	n.a.
Federal Prisons	30	30	30	n.a.	n.a.
Inter-State Contract	309	66	330	n.a.	n.a.

Table 3 presents the county figures for the fourth quarter of 1996. The county population decreased by 89 inmates, or minus 1 percent during this quarter. At the end of the quarter, the county system operated with 12,021 inmates, and the average daily population was 12,141 in facilities with a total design capacity of 8,356. Thus, the county system operated at 145 percent of design capacity.

**Population in County Correctional Facilities,  
October 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996**

Facility	Average Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Barnstable	293	282	303	110	266%
Berkshire	254	259	249	116	219%
Bristol	1,173	1,162	1,176	666	176%
Dukes	23	27	23	19	121%
Essex	1,387	1,369	1,370	635	218%
Franklin	130	132	127	63	206%
Hampden	1,539	1,513	1,536	1,178	131%
Hampden-OUI	128	127	128	125	102%
Hampshire	263	262	266	248	106%
*Middlesex	1,339	1,332	1,276	1,035	129%
Norfolk	602	584	609	379	159%
Plymouth	1,168	1,143	1,181	1,140	102%
Suffolk-Nashua St	599	611	594	453	132%
Suffolk-So. Bay	1,838	1,825	1,830	1,146	160%
Worcester	1,199	1,251	1,164	790	152%
Longwood TC	145	153	140	125	116%
Mass. Boot Camp	61	78	49	128	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,141</b>	<b>12,110</b>	<b>12,021</b>	<b>8,356</b>	<b>145%</b>

(\* = See Technical Notes)

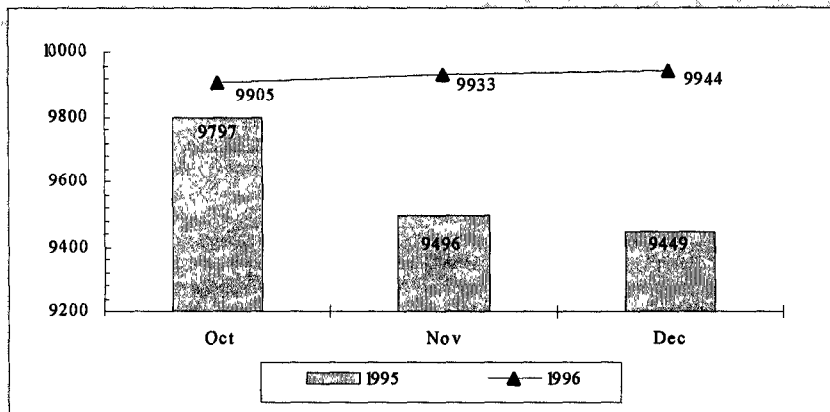
Table 4 presents the county figures for the previous twelve months. These figures indicate that the county population increased by 609 inmates or 5 percent over this twelve-month period, from 11,189 in October 1995, to 11,798 in September, 1996.

**Population in County Correctional Facilities,  
October 1, 1995 to September 30, 1996**

Facility	Average Daily Population	Beginning Population	Ending Population	Design Capacity	% ADP Capacity
Barnstable	276	265	276	110	251%
Berkshire	238	228	270	116	205%
Bristol	1,091	1,017	1,154	666	164%
Dukes	22	27	27	19	116%
Essex	1,348	1,305	1,349	635	212%
Franklin	127	126	131	63	202%
Hampden	1,460	1,503	1,508	1,178	124%
Hampden-OUI	130	128	128	125	104%
Hampshire	256	248	260	248	103%
Middlesex	1,268	1,244	1,313	792	160%
Norfolk	563	544	579	379	149%
Plymouth	1,133	1,104	1,136	1,140	99%
Suffolk-Nashua St	571	598	593	453	126%
Suffolk-So. Bay	1,587	1,488	1,826	1,146	138%
Worcester	1,187	1,105	1,250	790	150%
Longwood TC	142	145	153	125	114%
Mass. Boot Camp	121	112	80	128	95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,520</b>	<b>11,189</b>	<b>12,033</b>	<b>8,113</b>	<b>142%</b>

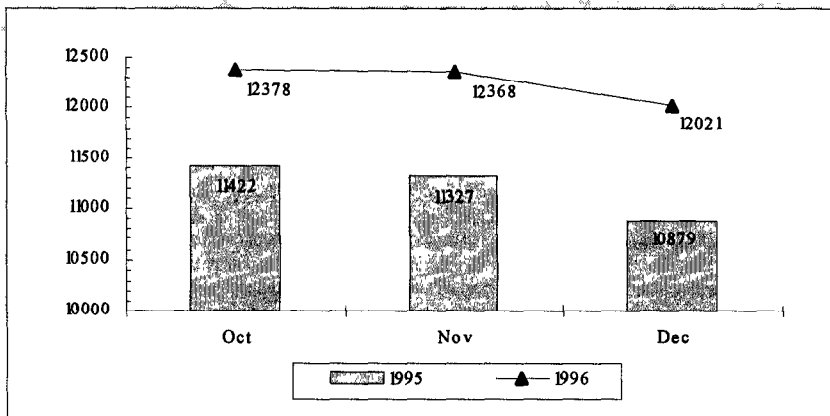


**Figure 1.**  
**DOC Sentenced Population, Fourth Quarter of 1995 and 1996**



The graph above compares the DOC sentenced population in 1995 to that in 1996. In October, 1996 the DOC population increased by 108 inmates (1%) from the same month in 1995; in November, the population increased by 437 (5%); and in December, an increase of 495 or 5 percent.

**Figure 2.**  
**HOC Population, Fourth Quarter of 1995 and 1996**



The graph above compares the HOC population in 1995 to that in 1996. In October, 1996 the HOC population increased by 956 inmates (8%) from the same month in 1995; in November, the population increased by 1,041 (9%); and in December, an increase of 1,142 or 10 percent.

Note: Data for figures 1 and 2 were taken from the end of the month count sheets compiled by the Classification Division.

Table 5 provides statistics on court commitments to the DOC in 1995 and 1996. Overall, there has been a decrease of 472, or minus 13 percent, in commitments for 1996 in comparison with the number of commitments in 1995, from 3,561 to 3,089. Overall, male commitments for 1996 decreased by 133, or minus 6 percent from 1995. Commitments to Framingham (females) during 1996 decreased by 339, or minus 23 percent compared to the number of commitments during the same period of 1995.

Court Commitments to the DOC			
	1995	1996	Difference
<b>Males</b>			
First Quarter	636	528	-17%
Second Quarter	577	512	-11%
Third Quarter	455	461	1%
Fourth Quarter	447	481	8%
Sub-total	2,115	1,982	-6%
<b>Females</b>			
First Quarter	367	260	-29%
Second Quarter	411	288	-30%
Third Quarter	401	290	-28%
Fourth Quarter	267	269	1%
Sub-total	1,446	1,107	-23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,561</b>	<b>3,089</b>	<b>-13%</b>

Figure 3 provides a graphical representation of the number of court commitments to the DOC committing institutions during the fourth quarter of 1995 and the fourth quarter of 1996.

